4. TOP HUNGARIAN PARTY LEADERS TO VISIT BELGRADE

Comment on:

Belgrade's announcement on 5 October the day Tito returned from a conference with Soviet leaders in Yalta—that five of

the top-ranking Hungarian Communist leaders will pay an official visit to Yugoslavia starting on 15 October suggests that for the present there is to be no explosion in Soviet-Yugoslav relations and no harsh crackdown on the Satellites. Tito may have succeeded to some extent in convincing Soviet leaders that de-Stalinization and "democratization" must not be wiped out in the Satellites, and may have agreed to cooperate with the USSR in holding the liberalization program to a more controlled pace in Hungary and Poland.

The guidelines for the forthcoming talks undoubtedly were laid down in conversations between Tito and Hungarian party first secretary Gero in the Crimea, although Gero reportedly requested an invitation two months ago to send a high-level delegation to Yugoslavia. Gero's trip as head of the delegation will serve the purpose of paying public homage to Tito, as did Hungary's ceremonial reinterment on 6 October of Laszlo Rajk, the former Titoist and "national deviationist." Besides its many efforts to overcome obstacles in its relations with Yugoslavia, Hungary has shown an inclination to adopt a more nationalistic domestic policy and on more than one occasion its leaders have referred to the Yugoslav example as a highly commendable pattern to follow.

The inclusion in the delegation of "moderate" members of the Hungarian party may be designed to prove to Tito that liberalization in Hungary is a reality and need not include the further step of rehabilitating Imre Nagy, as Yugoslavia has been urging.

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